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National Park Service News Release

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APOLLO DISTRICT INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS JANUARY 2006

PONTOON BOAT CRUISE:

SUNDAYS (Weather permitting) "THE BACKWATERS OF MOSQUITO LAGOON" Journey with a National Park Ranger on a visit to the colorful places that lend character to this vital estuary. Our pontoon boat, *Tortuga del Sol*, is U.S. Coast Guard inspected and our licensed captains and experienced mates are trained to provide you with a memorable and safe park water tour. Join us for a two-hour journey as we cruise from the Visitor Center. <u>RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED</u> and <u>SPACE IS</u>

<u>LIMITED.</u> A cost recovery fee of \$13.00 per person is charged for all passengers. Call (386) 428-3384 ext. 10 to reserve space.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH AND 19TH-1:00 PM-"FISH MOSQUITO LAGOON"Learn tips and tricks for fishing the waters of Mosquito Lagoon. Bring your own tackle if you can; we have some supplies. Bring water and sunscreen. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (2 hours)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH-10:00 AM-"A CRABBING WE WILL GO" Learn about the elusive and delicious blue crab. Try some trapping techniques and get some recipe ideas. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH AND 26TH-1:00 PM-"HOOK, LINE AND SINKER" Bait, rigs and tackle tips will be discussed, along with the rules and regulations for keeping what you catch. Bring water and sunscreen. We have a few rods; feel free to bring your own. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (2 hours)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 20TH, 27TH AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH-9:00 AM TO 11:00 PM-"CANOE MOSQUITO LAGOON" Join a guide as you explore this rich and diverse estuary up close. Some experience is preferred. You must be at least 8 years old and able to paddle. You must wear covered shoes (no sandals or flipflops). Bring water, sunscreen and a hat. Dress to get wet. Individuals with their own kayaks or canoes are welcome to join in. Life preservers are provided. Reservations are taken no more than seven days in advance. Call (386) 428-3384 ext. 10 to reserve your spot. Meet at the Visitor Information Center at 8:45 a.m. We will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m. and return around 11:00 a.m. (2 hours)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH-1:00 PM-"FROM COAST TO COAST" Start on the beach and learn about the dunes, then end up on the lagoon shore discussing the importance of mangroves. Bring water and sunscreen. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18TH-10:00 AM-"CLAMMING 101" Learn tips, tricks, lore and trivia about clams, then try your luck at catching these tasty bi-valves. Wear covered shoes (no sandals or flip-flops). Bring water and sunscreen. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST-1:00 PM-"PINE NEEDLE BASKET WEAVING"Learn the ancient art of pine needle basket weaving. Great for beginners or those looking to brush up on their skills. The materials will be provided, just bring your imagination. Meet at the Visitor Information Center. (1 hour)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH-2:00 PM-"CASTLE WINDY WALK" Walk the trail at Castle Windy with a ranger and learn about the natural history of this area. You will also have a chance to experience the flora and fauna of a Florida hammock. This is an easy 1 mile round trip. Meet at parking area #3. (1 hour)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27TH-12:00 PM-"BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES" Bring a bag lunch and join us at our pavilion for a special guest speaker. This month we are welcoming Michael Brothers, manager of the Marine Science Center. Mr. Brothers will be discussing their bird rehabilitation program. (1 hour)